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Date: February 27, 2003 Label No. EV122923680US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Ashley Smith
Name (Print)

Ashley Smith
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Christopher A. MICHALUK

Application No.: 10/042,549

Filed: January 9, 2002

Group Art Unit: 1742

Examiner: A. Oltmans

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 27, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-captioned application but before any Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549

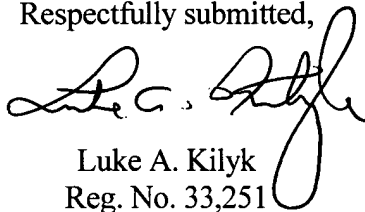
requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 03-0060.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Reg. No. 33,251

Atty. Docket No.: CPM00029CIP(3600-328-01)
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
53 A East Lee Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel: (540) 428-1701
Fax: (540) 428-1720
Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/ 7 Documents, & International Search Report.